

Health Care Science & Services Career Pathway

MISSOURI ECONOMIC RESEARCH & INFORMATION CENTER
MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION
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What are Career Pathways?

Career Pathways are groups of occupations within a career field. Occupations within a pathway share common skills, knowledge, and interests. The pathways use industry-recognized credentials and are examples of how different levels of training or education can help provide opportunities for career advancement.

Missouri Numbers:



14,479 Employers



342,601 Workers



\$72,521 Average Wage

Why Have a Career in Health Care?

Health Care Science & Services is the largest employing industry in Missouri, making up 13.8 percent of total private sector employment. The Health Care Science & Services industry has over 14,000 employers that provide jobs to over 342,000 workers across the state.

Missouri's Health Care industry has particularly high employment concentrations in *General Medical and Surgical Hospitals*, as well as *Nursing and Residential Care Facilities*. Wages in this industry averaged \$72,521 in 2024, higher than the state average of \$64,754 for private industries. An aging patient population and retiring health care workers contribute to the growing and projected need.

The Health Care industry provides various work opportunities for every interest. From jobs that directly care for patients to careers that keep the whole system going, important jobs are waiting to be filled in Patient Care, Diagnostic/Therapeutic, and Business Operations.

Know the Basics

Health Care careers often involve interaction with patients and other team members, so active listening and communication skills are important. Health Care includes many essential occupations that need to be staffed around the clock, so dependability and reliability are a must. Durable, or soft, skills, such as interpersonal skills, professionalism, and dependability, are important in all industries and occupations.

Skills needed for Success:

The Health Care Science & Services industry has industry-wide technical competencies that represent the knowledge and skills needed to be successful in this industry. With the need for privacy and confidentiality in these industries, workers need to have knowledge of health industry ethics, laws and regulations, in addition to being able to keep accurate and confidential documentation. Patient interaction, infection control, understanding of drugs and medications, as well as the knowledge of diagnostic procedures, scientific methods, and technology are some of the skills needed for success in this industry.

Who's Hiring in Missouri?

Mercy Health
SSM Health
BJC HealthCare
HCA Healthcare
CoxHealth



Patient Care

Diagnostic/ Therapeutic

Business Operations

Now

Short-Term On-the-Job Training

Home Health & Personal Care Aides

Entry: \$27,200 Average: \$32,940

Certificates: Home Health Aide;
Certified Caregiver; First Aid CPR
AED; Nursing Assistant

Psychiatric Aides

Entry: \$38,670 Average: \$40,650

Certificates: First Aid CPR AED

Receptionists & Information Clerks

Entry: \$30,370 Average: \$35,850

Customer Service Representatives

Entry: \$35,530 Average: \$45,000

Certificates: Certified Healthcare
Access Associate (CHAA); First Aid
CPR AED

Next

Certificate, Associate Degree, Apprenticeship, Moderate- to Long-Term On-the-Job Training

Nursing Assistants

Entry: \$34,770 Average: \$37,650

Licensed Practical & Vocational Nurses

Entry: \$51,000 Average: \$58,900

Emergency Medical Technicians

Entry: \$35,070 Average: \$40,800

Certificates: Nursing Assistant;
Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN);
Emergency Medical Technician
(EMT)

Dental Assistants

Entry: \$37,580 Average: \$45,390

Dental Hygienists

Entry: \$81,580 Average: \$87,170

Pharmacy Technicians

Entry: \$35,730 Average: \$40,840

Certificates: Dental Hygienist;
Dental Assistant American; First
Aid CPR AED

Medical Records Specialists

Entry: \$42,760 Average: \$52,940

Computer User Support Specialists

Entry: \$41,910 Average: \$57,640

Medical Secretaries

Entry: \$36,730 Average: \$43,000

Certificates: Registered Health
Information Technician; Certified
Professional Coder; Certified A+
Technician; Network +; Microsoft
Certified Professional (MCP)

Later

Bachelor's Degree or Advanced Degree

Registered Nurses

Entry: \$66,830 Average: \$81,950

Physical Therapists

Entry: \$78,310 Average: \$94,760

Family Medicine Physicians

Entry: \$76,470 Average: \$228,690

Degrees: Nursing Science;
Physical Therapy; Medicine

Dentists

Entry: N/A Average: N/A

Pharmacists

Entry: \$127,470 Average: \$136,170

Healthcare Social Workers

Entry: \$43,400 Average: \$57,660

Degrees: Social Work; Pharmacy;
Mental Health; Dental Medicine

Software Developers

Entry: \$82,990 Average: \$114,240

Medical & Health Services Managers

Entry: \$81,910 Average: \$117,920

Accountants & Auditors

Entry: \$56,640 Average: \$80,160

Degrees: Computer Science;
Information Technology;
Accounting; Business
Administration & Management

Sources:

Lightcast™

Employment and Training Administration, Competency Model Clearinghouse

2024 Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Top employers data is based on 2025 online job ads



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